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Name.....

Reg. No.....

**SECOND SEMESTER (CBCSS—UG) DEGREE [SUPPLEMENTARY]  
EXAMINATION, APRIL 2025****B.Com/BBA/B.A./B.Sc**

English

ENG 2A 04—ZEITGEIST : READING ON CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

(2019 Syllabus)

Time : Two Hours and a Half

Maximum : 80 Marks

I. Answer the following questions in two *or* three sentences. 2 marks each ;

- 1 What are the objectives of the Constitution set by the Preamble ?
- 2 Explain 'In the middle on a stretch of land that had no name, lay Toba Tek Singh.'
- 3 What are the different attitudes of the White's and Native Americans to the country of their birth ?
- 4 Why does the poet try to teach us how to kill a tree ?
- 5 What were Aaron's dreams about, while he was staying inside the haystack ?
- 6 How did Adrienne Rich plan to separate her remarks into two parts ?
- 7 What, according to Rich, is the courage to be 'different' ?
- 8 'My prayers are now getting stuck in my throat.' Why did the speaker fear so ?
- 9 How did the speaker describe the phase 'I decided to be a boy' ?
- 10 What, according to the protagonist, is the difference between working in the Movement and the Union ?
- 11 What is the politics of separation in playing games as seen in Limbale's narrative ?
- 12 Why does a person who has just won a lottery jump with joy ?
- 13 What is more powerful than bombs and weapons ?
- 14 What did the nostalgic aunts remind the speaker in Mokobe's poem at the age of twelve ?
- 15 What is Harari's observation of human happiness ?

(Ceiling 25)

**Turn over**

II. Answer the following questions in *a paragraph* of 100 words. 5 marks each :

- 16 What proves Gandhi's righteousness ?
- 17 Comment on the ending of 'Toba Tek Singh.'
- 18 The step by step process needed for killing a tree.
- 19 How does Adrienne Rich elaborate the concept of responsibility to oneself ?
- 20 What characterizes the alienation of the Jews in the poem 'Refugee Blues' ?
- 21 Narrate the journey to the island by the narrator and the protagonist's family.
- 22 The character of Louise Mallard.
- 23 Write a note on the boyhood phase in "What It's like to be Transgender."

(Ceiling 35)

III. Write essays on any *two* of the following questions in 200 words :

- 24 Explain the salient features of the Preamble of the Constitution of India.
- 25 Critically examine the man-animal bond as portrayed in Issac Bashevis Singer's "Zlateh the Goat."
- 26 Kate Chopin's "The Story of an Hour" is an attempt to highlight inherent oppressiveness of marriage. Discuss.
- 27 How does Limbale portray the caste-ridden Indian society ?

(2 × 10 = 20 marks)

**D 103681****(Pages : 2)****Name.....****Reg. No.....****SECOND SEMESTER (CBCSS-UG) DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2024****English****(B.Com./B.B.A./B.H.A/B.T.H.M.)****ENG 2A 04—ZEITGEIST : READINGS ON CONTEMPORARY CULTURE****(2019–2021 Admissions)****Time : Two Hours and a Half****Maximum : 80 Marks****I. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences : (2 marks each)**

- 1 Who are the lot referred to as the lovers of violence ?
- 2 How did the Muslim friend from Toba Tek-Singh who came to visit Bishan Singh introduce himself ?
- 3 What was the response of the Anglo-Indian inmates of the asylum, when they realized the English had given Hindustan Freedom ?
- 4 Why does the poet try to teach us how to kill a tree ?
- 5 What was the family's response when Reuven asked Aaron to take the goat to town ?
- 6 What does Adrienne Rich mean by 'students demand to be taken seriously' ?
- 7 What is the climax of "The Story of an Hour" ?
- 8 'She (My mother) fears that I'll die without a whisper.' Why ?
- 9 How did the speaker describe the phase 'I decided to be a boy' ?
- 10 Why couldn't the narrator go often to the court to follow the trail of her potential husband ?
- 11 What was the protagonist's reply in the story 'Amnesty' when he was informed of the coming of the second child ?
- 12 What are Harari's observations about the French revolution ?
- 13 What did the teacher ask the students to do the day after the picnic ?
- 14 What did the nostalgic aunts remind the speaker in Mokobe's poem at the age of twelve ?
- 15 Why could Parshya not go to picnic ?

**(Ceiling 25)****Turn over**

II. Answer the following questions in a paragraph of 100 words : (5 marks each)

- 16 What will happen if Gandhi's assassin is released ?
- 17 Patriotism as a theme in Tagore's "Freedom".
- 18 The communication between Aaron and his goat.
- 19 How does Adrienne Rich elaborate the concept of responsibility to oneself ?
- 20 Write a note on the boyhood phase in "What It's like to be Transgender."
- 21 The discrimination of the Dalits, according to Limbale.
- 22 What should be the contract between the students and faculty ?
- 23 Explain the dream with which "Refugee Blues" is concluded.

(Ceiling 35)

III. Write essays on any *two* of the following questions in 200 words :

- 24 Explain the salient features of the Preamble of the Constitution of India.
- 25 "On Killing a Tree" describes man's cruelty and violence to nature discuss.
- 26 "What It's like to be Transgender" is a documentation of the identity crisis and the denial of the basic human rights of the transgender ? Discuss.
- 27 How does Yuval Harari define meaning of human life and basic human rights ?

(2 × 10 = 20 marks)

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(Pages : 2)

Name.....

Reg. No.....

**SECOND SEMESTER (CBCSS—UG) DEGREE EXAMINATION  
APRIL 2023**

B.Com./B.B.A.

English

ENG 2A 04—ZEITGEIST : READINGS ON CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

(2019—2021 Admissions)

Time : Two Hours and a Half

Maximum : 80 Marks

I. Answer the following questions in two *or* three sentences. 2 marks each :

- 1 Why the Preamble is called the 'identity card of the Constitution' ?
- 2 What is Harari's reaction to the statement that married people are happier on average than singles ?
- 3 Who are the lot referred to as the lovers of violence ?
- 4 Explain the figure of speech used in the line, "burden of ages, bending your head, breaking your back."
- 5 What made Girmallya's farm quiver in the narrator's stomach ?
- 6 What does the poet mean by the strength of the tree exposed ?
- 7 What are the conditions laid by Seattle to sell his land to the great chief ?
- 8 What name was given by the trade Unionist to his daughter ?
- 9 What is described as 'the thunder rumbling in the sky' ?
- 10 What did the speaker ask Jesus in the first prayer ?
- 11 How was the outside world described, after Mrs. Mallard heard the news of her husband's death ?
- 12 How does Adrienne Rich define '*taking responsibility towards yourselves*', from the feminists' perspective ?
- 13 The circumstances that compelled Reuven to decide on selling Zlateh.

**Turn over**

- 14 What does the Native American see the rivers and the earth ?
- 15 Explain ‘ In the middle on a stretch of land that had no name, lay *Toba Tek Singh*’.

(Ceiling 25)

II. Answer the following questions in a *paragraph* of 100 words. 5 marks each :

- 16 What are Harari's observations about the French revolution ?
- 17 Comment on the politics of food in “The Outcaste”.
- 18 What characterizes the alienation of the Jews in the poem “Refugee Blues” ?
- 19 Comment on the poetic style in “What It’s like to Be Transgender”.
- 20 Comment on Chopin’s treatment of marriage and family.
- 21 Explain the significance of the title *Toba Tek Singh*.
- 22 Comment on the gendered bias in education, according to Adrienne Rich ?
- 23 Comment on the passion and feelings conveyed in chief Seattle speech.

(Ceiling 35)

III. Write essays on any *two* of the following questions in 200 words :

- 24 Define the concept of freedom based on Tagore’s “Freedom”.
- 25 Critically examine the man-animal bond as portrayed in Issac Bashevis Singer’s “Zlateh the Goat”
- 26 “*Claiming An Education*” is a critique of the present system of education from a woman’s perspective. Discuss ?
- 27 How did Limbale portray the caste-ridden Indian society in the prescribed extract from “The Outcaste” ?

(2 × 10 = 20 marks)

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(Pages : 2)

Name.....

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SECOND SEMESTER (CBCSS—UG) DEGREE EXAMINATION  
APRIL 2022

English (B.Com./B.B.A.)

ENG 2A 04—ZEITGEIST : READINGS ON CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

(2019—2020 Admissions)

Time : Two Hours and a Half

Maximum : 80 Marks

I. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences. 2 marks each :

- 1 Why does a person who has just won a lottery jump with joy ?
- 2 Why does the poet try to teach us how to kill a tree ?
- 3 What does the phrase “beckoning call of the future” refer to ?
- 4 Explain the sarcasm in the words of Seattle when he says ‘ I am a savage and do not understand’.
- 5 Comment on the politics of separation in playing games.
- 6 What is the meaning of the term “Amnesty” ?
- 7 What makes the poet to state that there was no place for him and his beloved in the poem *Refugee Blues* ?
- 8 Who is the Olympic gold - winning decathlete mentioned in “What It’s like to Be Transgender” ?
- 9 Explain ‘In the middle on a stretch of land that had no name, lay *Toba Tek Singh*’.
- 10 Why was great care taken in breaking the news of her husband to Mrs. Mallard ?
- 11 Mention one of the devastating weaknesses of the university learning, according to Rich.
- 12 The communication between Aaron and his goat.
- 13 What are the different attitudes of the White’s and Native Americans to the country of their birth ?
- 14 What are the objectives of the Constitution set by the Preamble ?
- 15 Who are the lot referred to as the lovers of violence ?

(Ceiling 25)

Turn over

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II. Answer the following questions in a *paragraph* of 100 words. 5 marks each :

- 16 Comment on Sharankumar Limbale's prose style.
- 17 What does Aldous Huxley speak of happiness in 'Brave New World' ?
- 18 Comment on the treatment of racism in "Amnesty".
- 19 Comment on the animal imagery in "Refugee Blues".
- 20 What was the thoughts that flashed through Mrs. Mallard's mind, after realizing her husband's death ?
- 21 How does Adrienne Rich elaborate the concept of responsibility to oneself ?
- 22 What is the message of 'On Killing a Tree' ?
- 23 The significance of Preamble in the constitution of India.

(Ceiling 35)

III. Write essays on any *two* of the following questions in 200 words :

- 24 Analyze *Toba Tek Singh* as a caustic satire on the absurdity of partition.
- 25 "On Killing a Tree" describes man cruelty and violence to nature discuss.
- 26 "Refugee Blues" is a documentation of the denial of the human rights of the migrant population of the world. Discuss.
- 27 Critically examine "Amnesty" as the story of a young woman whose ambitions are thwarted by social inequalities.

(2 × 10 = 20 marks)

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(Pages : 2)

Name.....

Reg. No.....

**SECOND SEMESTER (CBCSS-UG) DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2022**

English (B.Com/B.B.A.)

ENG 2A 04—ZEITGEIST : READINGS ON CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

(2021 Admissions)

Time : Two Hours and a Half

Maximum : 80 Marks

**Section A**

*Answer atleast ten questions.*

*Each question carries 3 marks.*

*All questions can be attended.*

*Overall ceiling 30.*

1. What is the significance of the asylum in the story "Toba Tele Singh" ?
2. Who are the lot referred to as the lovers of violence ?
3. How does the Native American see the rivers and the earth ?
4. Why does the poet try to teach us how to kill a tree ?
5. What were Aaron's dreams about while he was staying inside the haystack ?
6. What does Adrienne Rich mean by 'students demand to be taken seriously' ?
7. Why was great care taken in breaking the news of her husband to Mrs. Mallard ?
8. What did the nostalgic aunts remind the speaker in Mokobe's poem at the age of twelve ?
9. What makes the speaker in 'Refugee Blues' to state that there was no place for him and his beloved ?
10. What, according to the protagonist, is the difference between working in the Movement and the Union ?
11. What was the protagonist's reply in the story 'Amnesty' when he was informed of the coming of the second child ?
12. What did the teacher ask the students to do the day after the picnic ?
13. Comment on the symbols of the open window in the story "The Story of an Hour."

**Turn over**

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14. What is the climax of "The Story of an Hour" ?
15. What is Harari's observation of human happiness ?

(10 × 3 = 30 marks)

**Section B**

*Answer atleast five questions.  
Each question carries 6 marks.  
All questions can be attended.  
Overall ceiling 30.*

16. Images of Colonialism in "Freedom".
17. What will happen if Gandhi's assassin is released ?
18. Native American criticism of the White man's treatment of mother earth.
19. The thoughts that flashed through Mrs. Mallard's mind, after realizing her husband's death.
20. Explain the significance of the title "Toba Tele Singh."
21. The discrimination of the Dalits, according to Limbale.
22. The significance of Preamble in the constitution of India.
23. How does Adrienne Rich elaborate the concept of responsibility to oneself ?

(5 × 6 = 30 marks)

**Section C**

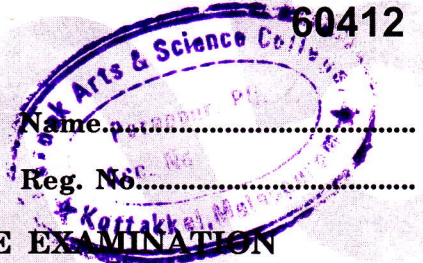
*Answer any two questions.  
Each question carries 10 marks.*

24. Critically examine the man-animal bond as portrayed in Issac Bashevis Singer's "Zlateh the Goat"
25. Define the concept of freedom based on Tagore's "Freedom".
26. "What it's like to be Transgender" is a documentation of the identity crisis and the denial of the basic human rights of the transgender. Discuss.
27. "Refugee Blues" is a documentation of the denial of the human rights of the migrant population of the world. Discuss.

(2 × 10 = 20 marks)

C 4312

(Pages : 2)



**SECOND SEMESTER (CBCSS—UG) DEGREE EXAMINATION  
APRIL 2021**

English (B.Com./B.B.A.)

ENG 2A 04—ZEITGEIST : READINGS ON CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

Time : Two Hours and a Half

Maximum : 80 Marks

**Section A**

*Answer at least ten questions.*

*Each question carries 3 marks.*

*All questions can be attended.*

*Overall Ceiling 30.*

1. Explain 'In the middle on a stretch of land that had no name, lay Toba Tek Singh'.
2. What is more powerful than bombs and weapons ?
3. What are the different attitudes of the White's and Native Americans to the country of their birth ?
4. Why does the poet say that a simple job of the knife will not kill a tree ?
5. What was the family's response when Reuven asked Aaron to take the goat to town ?
6. Why was Zlateh astonished when Aaron led her out on the town road ?
7. What, according to Rich, is the courage to be 'different' ?
8. 'My prayers are now getting stuck in my throat.' Why did the speaker fear so ?
9. What is described as 'the thunder rumbling in the sky' ?
10. Why couldn't the narrator go often to the court to follow the trail of her potential husband ?
11. What did the teacher do when he saw the narrator apparently doing nothing in the class the next day of the picnic ?
12. Why does a person who has just won a lottery jump with joy ?
13. What does Adrienne Rich mean by 'students demand to be taken seriously' ?
14. What did the nostalgic aunts remind the speaker in Mokobe's poem at the age of twelve ?
15. Why could Parshya not go to picnic ?

(10 × 3 = 30 marks)

**Turn over**

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**Section B**

*Answer at least five questions.*

*Each question carries 6 marks.*

*All questions can be attended.*

*Overall Ceiling 30.*

16. Comment on the ending of 'Toba Tek Singh.'
17. What proves Gandhi's righteousness ?
18. The step by step process needed for killing a tree.
19. The communication between Aaron and his goat.
20. The boyhood phase in "What It's like to be Transgender".
21. The medieval man and modern man is essentially the same in the scale of happiness. Argue.
22. The character of Louise Mallard.
23. The discrimination of the Dalits, according to Limbale.

(5 × 6 = 30 marks)

**Section C**

*Answer any two questions.*

*Each question carries 10 marks.*

24. "On Killing a Tree" describes man's cruelty and violence to nature discuss.
25. Discuss Pearl S. Buck's portrayal of Mahatma Gandhi in her essay.
26. Critically evaluate Adrienne Rich's concept of education.
27. How does Yuval Harari define meaning of human life and basic human rights ?

(2 × 10 = 20 marks)

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(Pages : 2)

Name.....

Reg. No.....

**SECOND SEMESTER B.Com./B.B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2020**

(CBCSS—UG)

English

ENG 2A 04—ZEITGEIST : READINGS ON CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

(2019 Admissions)

Time : Two Hours and a Half

Maximum : 80 Marks

I. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences : (2 marks each)

- 1 Why did the people believe in Gandhi ?
- 2 Why is the Preamble called the 'identity card of the Constitution' ?
- 3 Explain : 'In the middle, on a stretch of land that had no name, lay Toba Tek Singh.'
- 4 What are the different attitudes of the Whites and the Native Americans to the country of their birth ?
- 5 What is the tone of Gieve Patel's poem "On Killing a Tree" ?
- 6 Why was it a bad year for Reuven the furrier ?
- 7 Mention one of the devastating weaknesses of the university learning, according to Rich.
- 8 What was Mrs. Mallard's immediate reaction, when she heard the news of her husband's death ?
- 9 "I treat it like a house." What ?
- 10 How does Auden compare the old yew tree and the old passports ?
- 11 What was the content of the 'such a good letter' sent by the protagonist from the prison ?
- 12 What made Girmallya's farm quiver in the narrator's stomach ?
- 13 Why does a person who has just won a lottery jump with joy ?
- 14 Who was Bruce Jenner ?
- 15 Explain: "If we let them in, they will steal our daily bread".

(Ceiling 25)

Turn over

II. Answer the following questions in a paragraph of 100 words. (5 marks each) :

- 16 How can India fulfill the promise of her greatness ?
- 17 Comment on the ending of "Toba Tek Singh".
- 18 Comment on the passion and feelings conveyed in Seattle's speech.
- 19 The change of weather in Singer's "Zlateh the Goat".
- 20 The gendered bias in education, according to Adrienne Rich.
- 21 The pessimism in "What It's like to Be Transgender".
- 22 Explain the dream with which "Refugee Blues" is concluded.
- 23 Comment on the treatment of racism in "Amnesty".

(Ceiling 35)

III. Write essays on any *two* of the following questions in 200 words. Each question carries 10 marks :

- 24 "Toba Tek Singh" portrays the blindness of the leaders in dividing people along communal lines. Substantiate.
- 25 Explicate how Chief Seattle proves man is merely a single strand in the web of life.
- 26 How does Gieve Patel employ irony as a poetic device in "On Killing a Tree" ?
- 27 Kate Chopin's "The Story of an Hour" depicts the state of suppressed womanhood that yearns for limitless freedom. Discuss.

(2 × 10 = 20 marks)